

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automatic tab displaying and maximum tab storing UI assembly comprising:

(a) a display device including:

(i) a plurality of selectable screens each having a different user interactive information set and a screen selection tab, each said screen selection tab having a visible outline, a first surface size, and tab identification markings;

(ii) a first display area for displaying at least one screen of said plurality of selectable screens; and

(iii) at least a second display area for containing all said selection tabs of said plurality of selectable screens, said at least second area having (x) a second surface size less than a sum total of each of said first surface size of each of said selection tabs, (y) a first display portion for displaying a first set of said selection tabs in an open mode showing fully a visible outline and identification markings of each tab in said first set, and (z) at least a second display portion for displaying at least a second set of said selection tabs in a folded mode showing only part of said visible outline of each tab in said at least second set; and

(b) a programmable controller assembly connected to said display device and including tab manipulation means, said tab manipulation means being programmed for automatically moving said selection tabs in said at least second display area in a first direction from said open mode towards said folded mode, and in a second direction from said folded mode towards said open mode; thereby enabling said at least second display area to contain and intuitively fully display more selection tabs than can ordinarily be fully displayed therein.

2. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least second display area has at least a third portion for displaying, in full first surface size, at least one selection tab of at least one screen of said plurality of selectable screens, said at least one screen being displayed in said first display area.

3. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said identification markings of each selection tab include descriptive text information.

4. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least second display area includes a transition portion within which in going from said at least second portion to said first portion, selection tabs show more and more of said first surface size thereof of each, and more and more outline of each selection tab therein.

5. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein in said at least second display area, adjacent selection tabs move by sliding over and under each other respectively.

6. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said tab manipulation means include a pointing device.

7. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said tab manipulation means include a tab selection device.

8. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least second display area comprises a vertically narrow and horizontally elongate area.

9. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein selection tabs, located further and further away within said at least second portion from said first portion, are overlapped to a greater and greater degree by adjacent selection tabs than are selection tabs located towards said first portion.

10. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said visible outline of said each selection tab includes a horizontal top line and generally vertical end line connecting said top line.

11. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said each screen selection tab is located relative to an edge of its selectable screen, and is movable from one end towards the other along said edge.

12. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein all selection tabs contained within said at least second display area comprise a row.

13. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein each said selectable screen is a touch sensitive video screen.

14. The UI assembly of claim 1, wherein said display screen is controlled by a point and click device.

15. The UI assembly of claim 2, wherein after selection of at least one selection tab of said at least one screen, said at least third portion overlays and partially hides a part of said first portion.

16. The UI assembly of claim 2, wherein said at least one selection tab displayed in said at least third portion is ocludable by any other selection tabs being moved by said manipulation means within said at least second display area.

17. A digital image printing machine for producing toner images on copy sheets, the electrostatographic reproduction machine comprising:

(a) a moveable image bearing member having an image bearing surface;

(b) means for forming a toner image on said image bearing surface and for transferring said toner image onto a copy sheet of paper; and

(c) an automatic tab displaying and maximum tab storing UI assembly including

(i) a display device having (i) a plurality of selectable screens each having a different user interactive information set and a screen selection tab, each said screen selection tab having a visible outline, a first surface size, and tab identification markings; (ii) a first display area for displaying at least one screen of said plurality of selectable screens; and (iii) at least a second display area for containing all said selection tabs of said plurality

of selectable screens, said at least second area having (x) a second surface size less than a sum total of each of said first surface size of each of said selection tabs, (y) a first display portion for displaying a first set of said selection tabs in an open mode showing fully a visible outline and identification markings of each tab in said first set, and (z) at least a second display portion for displaying at least a second set of said selection tabs in a folded mode showing only part of said visible outline of each tab in said at least second set; and

(ii) a programmable controller assembly connected to said display device and including tab manipulation means, said tab manipulation means being programmed for automatically moving said selection tabs in said at least second display area in a first direction from said open mode towards said folded mode, and in a second direction from said folded mode towards said open mode; thereby enabling said at least second display area to contain and intuitively fully display more selection tabs than can ordinarily be fully displayed therein.

18. The digital image printing machine of claim 17, wherein said at least second display area has at least a third portion for displaying, in full first surface size, at least one selection tab of at least one screen of said plurality of selectable screens, said at least one screen being displayed in said first display area.

19. The digital image printing machine of claim 17, wherein said identification markings of each selection tab include descriptive text information.

20. The digital image printing machine of claim 17, wherein said at least second display area includes a transition portion within which in going from said at least second portion to said first portion, selection tabs show more and more of said first surface size thereof of each, and more and more outline of each selection tab therein.